(A concl)

13. (Amended) The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the agent is employed as a therapeutic agent.

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 are amended to remove multiple dependency. No new matter is contained in the amendments.

The application Declaration was filed on May 10, 2002.

Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patent claims

1. The use of gangliosides, ganglioside derivatives and/or cholesterol derivatives for preparing an agent for modulating sphingolipid-cholesterol microdomains.

2. The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the agent influences the location of components and their function on the sphingolipid-cholesterol microdomains.

3. The use as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that the agent influences the location of proteins on the sphingolipid-cholesterol microdomains.

4. The use as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the agent influences the location of anchor proteins, acylated proteins, Src kinases and/or cholesterol-anchored proteins and other raft proteins.

5. The use as claimed in claim 3 [or 4], characterized in that the agent acts on glycosylphosphatidylinositol anchor proteins, kinases of the Src family, influenca virus hemagglutin and other viral proteins and/or caveolin-1, 2 or 3 in the sphingolipid-cholesterol microdomain.

6. The use as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the agent brings about a disassembly of the protein clusters.

7. The use as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] (claim 1), characterized in that
the ganglioside is selected from bovine brain gangliosides, GM_1, GD1a, GD1b, GD3, GM2, GM3, GQ1a, GQ1b and/or globosides and their derivatives, in particular unsaturated sphingosines or ceramides containing unsaturated or short fatty acids.

8. The use as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] (claim 1), characterized in that
cholesterol derivatives, in particular cholesterol sulfate, are employed.

9. The use as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] (claim 1), characterized in that
the modulation of the sphingolipid cholesterol microdomains brings about a change in membrane transport, signal transmission and/or cell adhesion properties and/or in enzymic processes.

10. The use as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] (claim 1), characterized in that
the modulation of the sphingolipid-cholesterol microdomains brings about a change in the proteolysis of the amyloid precursor protein of Alzheimer's disease or a modification in a prion protein.

11. The use as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] (claim 1), characterized in that
the modulation of the phingolipid-cholesterol microdomains prevents the phagocytosis of bacteria and parasites in mammalian cells.

12. The use as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] (claim 1), characterized in that

the modulation of the phingolipid-cholesterol microdomains prevents the uptake of viruses into mammalian cells and/or their transport and release.

13. The use as claimed in [one of the preceding claims] claim 1 characterized in that
the agent is employed as a therapeutic agent.

14. The use of gangliosides, ganglioside derivatives and/or cholesterol derivatives for modulating sphingolipid-cholesterol microdomains.

15. A process for modulating sphingolipid-cholesterol microdomains, characterized in that gangliosides, ganglioside derivatives and/or cholesterol derivatives are administered to a patient at a dose of from 3 mg to 30 mg per kg per day.